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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Middle East/Great Britain

DATE:

INFO. 20 November 1946

SUBJECT Statements of Colonel Sterling
Concerning Position of Great Britain
on Greater Syria

DIST. 5 February 1947

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SUPPLEMENT

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ORIGIN

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The following statements are said to have been made by Colonel Frank Sterling, British tribal expert:

1. The British Government supports the present administration of Syria and is anxious to dispel all fears of this administration.
2. The British Government is also in close contact with the opposition.
3. The British Government would like very much to create an Arab Hashimite State which would include Iraq, Trans-Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.
4. This program would have to be fulfilled gradually. The Government of Iraq would take the initiative and would announce some kind of a union with Trans-Jordan. Jebel Druze would take the second step and would announce its union with Trans-Jordan. Then would come the turn of Syria proper, and, ultimately, Lebanon. In the case of Lebanon, large measures of autonomy would be granted to Mount Lebanon proper, including the three towns of Beirut, Tripoli and Sidon.
5. Sterling is also reported to have expressed his fears with reference to American intervention in Saudi Arabian and Egyptian politics.

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This document is hereby upgraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 15 September 1977 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
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